GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2442
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2017
Salt Exporters
Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the salt exporters are unwilling to continue owing to high labour levy on port handling charges and the labour levy for handling one tonne of salt is higher than other commercial crops like cashew nuts, sugar and wheat;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken steps to boost the morale of salt exporters; and

(c) the details thereof?

Answer

???????? ??? ?????? ????????????? (????????? ??????)(??????? ??????? ???????)
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a): The Salt Manufacturers and Merchant Association, Tuticorin has on 20.06.2017 represented to the Chairman, VO Chidambaranar Port Trust (VOCPT), Tuticorin, requesting for reduction in Port wharfage and labour levy charges.

Salt is predominantly handled at Kandla Port Trust (KPT) and VOCPT. In KPT, wharfage charges are minimum on salt as compared to any other bulk cargo. Labour charges are also comparatively low (viz. Rs. 15.27 per MT on salt as compared to Rs. 36.84 per MT on rice and other food grains and Rs. 25.53 per MT on sugar). In VOCPT, cost of handling salt is lower as compared to other commercial crops. Total of wharfage charges and labour levy is Rs. 89.91 on salt as compared to Rs. 123.23 on sugar, Rs. 107.91 on cashew and Rs. 123.23 on wheat.

(b) & (c): Considering the request of salt exporters, concession to the extent of 25% on wharfage and 50% in labour levy has been approved for salt export for cargo handled in excess of previous year tonnage handled, in V.O. Chidambaranar Port (VOCP). Accordingly, cost of handling of salt at VOCP has been reduced to Rs. 46.55 per MT for the current financial year.

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